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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,212	01/14/2002	Akemi Tsuyuki	020033	6185
38834 7590 02/01/2007 WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER CHEN, TE Y	
			ART UNIT 2161	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/01/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/043,212	TSUYUKI, AKEMI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Susan Y. Chen	2161	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Susan Y. Chen. (3) ____.

(2) Dennis Hubbs. (4) ____.

Date of Interview: 31 January 2007.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: ____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: U.S. Patent No. 5,940,821, 5,923,330 and Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The examiner first points out and apologized for a typing error in the office action dated 11/02/2006, wherein, the reference to the U.S. Patent No. 5,923,330 is mistyped, it should be changed to U.S. Patent No. 5,940,821 as shown by the attached Office action. Applicant's representative indicated it OK to do so. Furthermore, the discussion is focused on the processing of the relationship management table of instant invention as initiated by applicant's representative, for which, the representative party indicates he will further amend the claims to reflect the novelties of instant invention.

Response to Amendment

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37-CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/20/2006 has been entered.

Claims 1-7 and 20-27, are pending for examination, claims 1 and 20 have been amended.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 20, are objected to because of the following informalities:

As to claims 1 and 20, the meaning of the acronym "CIF" should be clearly cited at least at the first time it is appeared in the claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7 and 20-27, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As to claims 1 and 20, the claimed subject matter "the information and the scope as designated" lacks of antecedent basis.

As to claims 2-7 and 21-27, these claims have the same defects as their base claims 1 and 20 respectively, hence are rejected for the same reason.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 and 20-27, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eaton (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,567) in view of Wical et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,821).

As to claim 1, Eaton discloses an associating information management system for associating various types of information and for managing the information [e.g., Abstract, Fig. 1 and associated texts], comprising:

a) a relationship management table for storing parent-child relationship in identification of each type of information [e.g., the unit 139, Fig. 1, the family frame as shown in 302, Fig. 3]

b) wherein degrees of relative are displayed in a tree view in the order of relatives of closer degree [e.g., col. 6, lines 42-64], and an abbreviation symbol [e.g., the information resolution adjuster icon 316, Fig. 3] is added after the name of the member if a member with the same CIF [e.g., the unit 304, Fig. 3] is already displayed in the tree view [e.g., Fig. 3 and associated texts].

Eaton did not give detail explanation for retrieval means to perform retrieval processing of various types of information from parent to child and from child to parent by association of the relationship management table in the information and the scope as designated.

However, Wical disclose the detail information retrieval processing means to perform retrieval processing of various types of information from parent to child and from child to parent by association of the relationship management table in the information and the scope as designated [e.g., Abstract, col. 6, lines 26-52, Fig. 5 and associated texts].

Eaton and Wical are both in the same endeavor to optimizing the data retrieval processing of hierarchical (or parent/child) structure over network, therefore, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled person at the time the invention was made to modify Eaton's invention with the technique taught by Wical, because by doing so, the

combined system will be upgraded to facilitate a use to retrieve the desired data in any way he wants.

As to claim 2, in addition to the features recited in claim 1, the combined system of Eaton and Wical further discloses that various types of information are managed by a member management table where member data comprising said identification information and detailed information are stored [e.g., Wical: the document theme Vector table at col. 8, the knowledge base tables such as tables 2-5 at col. 15-16 and associated texts; col. 11, lines 62-64].

As to claim 3, in addition to the features recited in claim 2, the combined system of Eaton and Wical further discloses that the detailed information comprises classification information for classifying the members [e.g., Wical: the category a-x of table 1 at col. 8].

As to claims 4-6, in addition to the features recited in claim 3, the combined system of Eaton and Wical further discloses that classification information comprises type, rank, classification, and any source [e.g., Wical: col. 5, lines 52-55].

As to claim 7, in addition to the features recited in claim 1, the combined system of Eaton and Wical further discloses that relationship management table comprises information of mutual associating direction [e.g., Wical: the link of the index/topic table,

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col. 30, lines 19-21], and degree of relationship [e.g., Wical: the theme strength of the Document Theme Vector table 1 at col. 8].

As to claims 21-27, these claims recite the same features as claims 1-7 with different wording, hence are rejected for the same reason.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 and 20-27, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

To expedite the process of re-examination, the examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. 35 U.S.C. 112) set forth by the Examiner prior to the office action, that applicant should provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y. Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Susan Y Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2161

October 24, 2006